

Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Docket No. Q92981

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-51. (canceled).

52. (new) An elongated guide wire for use in a surgical or other procedure for accessing a remote site in the body of a human or animal subject, the guide wire defining a longitudinally extending central axis, and extending between a distal end for accessing the remote site and a spaced apart proximal end, a curvature controllable portion being located in the guide wire towards the distal end thereof for offsetting the distal end at an angle relative to the central axis, the curvature controllable portion comprising an elongated curvature inducing first member, and an elongated curvature inducing second member coupled to each other adjacent their distal ends, and extending from their distal ends axially in a proximal direction, and being moveable axially relative to each other for inducing a curved bend in the curvature controllable portion, wherein a means is provided for constraining the first and second members to move parallel to each other for inducing the curved bend in the curvature controllable portion.

53. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 52 in which the first and second members are disposed side by side and are slideably moveable axially relative to each other.

54. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 52 in which the means for constraining the first and second members to move parallel to each other comprises a guide tongue extending laterally from the second member and being slideably engageable with an axially extending corresponding guide groove in the first member.

55. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 54 in which a retaining means is provided for

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retaining the guide tongue laterally captive in a plane in which curvature is induceable in the curvature controllable portion.

56. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 55 in which the retaining means is provided by the transverse cross-section of the guide tongue co-operating with the transverse cross-section of the guide groove.

57. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 52 in which the guide wire comprises an elongated tubular member extending from the proximal end to the distal end, and the first member is formed by the tubular member of the guide wire.

58. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 57 in which an operating means is provided at the proximal end of the guide wire for moving one of the first and second members relative to the other for inducing the curved bend in the curvature controllable portion, and a connecting means is provided for connecting the operating means the second member.

59. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 58 in which the connecting means extends through a bore defined by the tubular member forming the guide wire.

60. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 58 in which the connecting means co-operates with the tubular member forming the guide wire, so that the column strength of the connecting means is sufficient for facilitating urging of the second member relative to the first member in both axial directions.

61. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 58 in which the connecting means comprises an elongated connecting wire, and the operating means is formed by a portion of the connecting

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wire extending from the tubular member forming the guide wire, at the proximal end thereof for facilitating urging the guide wire in at least one axial direction for urging the second member in the corresponding axial direction relative to the first member.

62. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 52 in which at least one of the first and second members is of resilient material for resiliently urging the distal end of the guide wire into axial alignment with the central axis of the guide wire.

63. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 52 in which the distal end of the guide wire terminates in a bulbous tip.

64. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 52 in which a sleeve extends from the distal end of the guide wire axially in a direction towards the proximal end thereof, and the curvature controllable portion is located within the sleeve.

65. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 52 in which at least a portion of the guide wire adjacent the distal end thereof is of a radiopaque material.

66. (new): A guide wire as claimed in Claim 52 for use in accessing a remote site in the body of a human or animal subject.

67. (new): In combination a catheter for use in a surgical or other procedure for accessing a remote site in the body of a human or animal subject, and an elongated guide wire, characterised in that the guide wire is a guide wire as claimed in Claim 52.

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68. (new): In combination a catheter for use in a surgical or other procedure for accessing a remote site in the body of a human or animal subject, and an elongated guide wire, the guide wire defining a longitudinally extending central axis, and extending between a distal end for accessing the remote site and a spaced apart proximal end, a curvature controllable portion being located in the guide wire towards the distal end thereof for offsetting the distal end at an angle relative to the central axis, the curvature controllable portion comprising an elongated curvature inducing first member, and an elongated curvature inducing second member coupled to each other adjacent their distal ends, and extending from their distal ends axially in a proximal direction, and being moveable axially relative to each other for inducing a curved bend in the curvature controllable portion, characterised in that a means is provided for constraining the first and second members to move parallel to each other for inducing the curved bend in the curvature controllable portion.

69. (new): A method for forming an elongated guide wire for use in a surgical or other procedure for accessing a remote site in the body of a human or animal subject, the method comprising the steps of providing a guide wire defining a longitudinally extending central axis and extending between a distal end for accessing the remote site and a spaced apart proximal end, locating a curvature controllable portion in the guide wire towards the distal end thereof for offsetting the distal end at an angle relative to the central axis, and providing the curvature controllable portion with an elongated curvature inducing first member and an elongated curvature inducing second member coupled to each other adjacent their distal ends, so that the first and second members extend from their distal ends axially in a proximal direction, and are moveable axially relative to each other for inducing a curved bend in the curvature controllable portion, characterised in that a means is provided for constraining the first and second members to move parallel to each other for inducing the curved bend in the curvature controllable portion.

70. (new): A method as claimed in Claim 69 in which the first and second members are disposed side by side and are slideably moveable axially relative to each other.

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71. (new): A method as claimed in Claim 69 in which the means for constraining the first and second members to move parallel to each other is provided by a guide tongue extending laterally from the second member and being slideably engageable with an axially extending corresponding guide groove in the first member.